



Russ & Beth White

Tenwek Hospital
November 27, 2023

Thanksgiving!

We have so much to give thanks for! We are most grateful to be children of God and to know God's presence, power, provision, and protection in our lives. We are also grateful for opportunities to share His goodness, for the many people in our lives who show us God's grace and care, and for the blessings of this life we get to live.



I love to sit on our balcony most mornings. While I'd rather see red at night ('sailors' delight!'), I do wake up excited to see what the sky holds-- God's glory! It has also held a LOT of rain lately! This morning we woke up in a cloud--literally and figuratively! I could barely see into the yard next door. And Russ could hardly think straight after a rough night with bad GI symptoms. Please pray for his quick recovery!



We celebrated Thanksgiving on Saturday with over 100 others, and my, what variety of foods we were able to enjoy with so many cooks in the room!



Post Ops

Some during- and after- recovery photos!



Joshua looked like this last Sunday after the hole in his heart was repaired, and he is ready to be discharged today! I would love to see what kind of energy he has after another month!



Brevin (whose name I spelled wrong as 'Brevan' before) has had a rough recovery from his heart repair, but he's now stable and looks pretty happy!



Blessing, who also had a heart repair, also had a very rough week and is still in the ICU. We were told that she would not smile for anyone medical-looking, but somehow she broke into this smile for Russ!



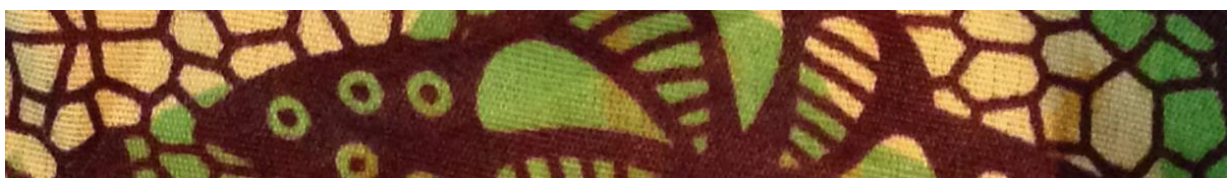
Eden has had to have intermittent pacing because his heart rhythms haven't been right yet. But he sure looks better this week than last!



Erick, the 32 y.o. young man who had a stroke from clots in his heart that covered his diseased mitral valve, is two weeks post-op and still has a long road ahead. Russ is concerned for him, as his wife has separated from him, and very few people have been in to visit him in his time of dire need. That is unusual here, as families generally rally around sick loved ones and friends visit as soon as they are allowed. Please pray for his recovery and for his spirit to be encouraged as we minister to him here.

Pre Ops

Shanice--yes, we had a young girl with that unusual name just a few weeks ago!--is a young Maasai mom with two children. Her husband had a 'harambee' (a community fundraiser) and sold land for Shanice to get a triple valve replacement this week. A chaplain who speaks Maasai will be visiting with her before surgery to answer her questions about her faith!



As she cares for patients, Doctor Agneta, along with the other doctors, struggles with the dire needs of patients in Kenya and throughout Africa. She wrote up the stories of three such patients. Below is the third.

Beth & Russ

Christiane is a 4-year-old girl from the Congo. She has been unwell since birth when she was noted to have difficulty in breathing, a persistent cough, and difficulty feeding. She later worsened to the extent of having fainting episodes. At 2 years of age, she was diagnosed with a ventricular septal defect and has been on follow-up and was referred to Tenwek for further management. On evaluation in our clinic, she was diagnosed with a large peri-membranous ventricular septal defect for which she requires open heart surgery for ventricular septal defect repair.

She is a needy patient, born to a father who is a teacher and her mother who is a seamstress, and the 3rd of four children. Any assistance to help Christiane and patients like her is highly appreciated!



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